DEMOCRATIC
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How To Unite Germany

"Adenauer & Militarists Must Go" — Ulbricht

Germany cannot be reunited until the West German militarists and arms kings have been swept from their positions of power, Deputy Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht told the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic on August 29th.

The Adenauer Government must go, the ban on the Communist Party must be cancelled, and the arms monopolies must be nationalised before effective steps for reunification can be taken, Walter Ulbricht stated.

As a short-term programme the Deputy Prime Minister proposed agreement on the limitation of armed forces in both parts of Germany, the abolition of conscription in West Germany, and a step-by-step withdrawal of foreign troops. After Germany had been reunited it should then form part of a European zone of limited armaments, Walter Ulbricht said.

Here are the main points from his important announcement, which was made in reply to a parliamentary question:

"We regret, together with all peace-loving people, that the present West German Government repeatedly raises new obstacles to the peaceful reunification of Germany.

"The Bonn Government is opposed not only to a policy of relaxation of tension, but also to the peaceful reunification of Germany. This is shown by its rejection of the proposals made by the German Democratic Republic that conscription should be renounced in both parts of Germany, that atomic weapons should not be stationed in Germany, and that a reduction in the number of foreign troops should be urged.

"The ban on the Communist Party is directly aimed against the reunification of Germany, since the Bonn Government expresses by this ban that it is opposed to a democratic Germany, and that it aims at a suppression of progressive democratic forces in both parts of Germany ...

"It is necessary to tell people the whole truth. The whole truth is that the Bonn Government, acting on the plans of the ruling trust kings, bankers and big landowners in West Germany has not only built a wall right across Germany, but has also made this wall even higher by such fascist measures as banning the Communist

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300 MILLION DOLLAR BUSINESS AT LEIPZIG FAIR

The Leipzig Autumn Sample Fair, which closed on September 9th, did over 300 million dollars worth of business, it was officially announced.

The lion's share of the business fell to light industrial undertakings of the German Democratic Republic, which concluded export agreements for goods valued at over 230 million dollars. Nearly 100 million dollars worth of these exports will go to foreign capitalist countries and to West Germany.

S.S. Officers for Wehrmacht

Former officers of Hitler's black-uniformed SS troops up to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel can now be engaged with their old rank in the new Wehrmacht, it was officially announced in Bonn on September 6th. The same regulation applies to former officers of the SD, the nazi intelligence service; the Reich Labour Service; and the nazi police. (The International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg ruled on September 30th 1946 that the SS and the SD were "criminal organisations", and stated in its judgment: "The SS was utilised for purposes which were criminal under the charter, involving the persecution and extermination of the Jews, brutalities and killings in concentration camps, excesses in the administration of occupied territories, the administration of the slave labour programme, and the mistreatment and murder of prisoners of war ... The Tribunal declares to be criminal the group composed of those persons who had been officially accepted as members of the SS.")

C.O.s Called "Cowards or Communists"

All conscientious objectors to military service are either Communists or cowards, Major General Paul Herrmann of the West German Wehrmacht told reporters in West Germany at the end of August.

General Herrmann, who commanded a Hitlerite division on the eastern front in the Second World War, stated to a group of journalists: "Gentlemen, you will understand that I, as an old soldier with 31 years in the service, have no time for conscientious objectors. They are either Communists or cowards. If you stick them all in convicts' uniform then we will not have any more".

Later, when he was criticised for his statement, General Herrmann said that he had only been quoting the words of a "high dignitary" of the West German state.

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How To Unite Germany

Party. The whole truth is that we can only get down to the job of reunifying Germany when this wall, erected by the West German militarists, has been removed ...

"It would be ridiculous even to discuss all-German elections as long as the West German arms millionaires, the Hitlerite generals and other forces lusting for war have the chance of using their economic and administrative positions of power from which they can influence such elections. Those who desire a peace-loving democratic Germany should help to create conditions in West Germany which will make a peaceful reunification possible.

"The national interests of our people and our homeland, the cause of peace and reunification make the following steps necessary:

1. **A limitation of the armed forces in both parts of Germany. Agreement should be reached that the armed forces should be raised solely on a volunteer basis. When Germany is reunited it should form part of a zone of limited armaments. The German Army could number perhaps 200,000 men.**
2. **Removal of the Hitlerite Generals and other revenge-seekers from the administration and the army. The armament monopolies, which support revenge policies and fascism, should be nationalised.**
3. **Foreign troops should be removed from Germany step by step.**
4. **Cancellation of the ban on the Communist Party of Germany. The banning of all militarist organisations.**
5. **Cooperation between the Government of the German Democratic Republic and the Government of the German Federal Republic in the interests of bringing the two German states nearer to each other. Negotiations between the representatives of the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic and the Bonn Parliament, and between representatives of the two governments on the question of reuniting Germany.**

"Since the Adenauer Government, as a result of its dependence upon the arms kings and the militarist forces, is not ready and not able to take the peaceful path to reunification ... genuine conditions for reunification will probably first exist when the population of West Germany draws its conclusions from the bankruptcy of the policy of the West German government party, forces the Adenauer Government to resign, and forms a government which is ready to solve the national question peacefully in cooperation with the People's Chamber and the Government of the German Democratic Republic.

W. GERMANY SENDS "BLIND-EYE" NOTE

"East German State Does Not Exist" Says Bonn

The West German Government has proposed to the Soviet Government an exchange of views on the problem of re-unifying Germany; the proposal was made in a Note delivered in Moscow on September 7th.

The main theme of the note was that there was no need to consult the German Democratic Republic on the subject of re-unification, since in the view of the West German Government no such state exists.

This was specifically stated in the West German note in a paragraph reading as follows: "The Soviet Government has unnecessarily prolonged the partitioning of Germany by its assertion, contrary to the views of an overwhelming majority of countries, that two states exist in Germany."

First reaction to the West German note in Berlin and Moscow was that no serious progress towards German reunification could be expected until the West German Government was prepared to accept the existence of the German Democratic Republic as a reality, and to enter into negotiations with its Government.

Here are some of the main points made by the West German note:

1. The Government of the German Federal Republic (West Germany) shares the opinion expressed by the Soviet Union in March 1952 that the continuation of the partitioning of Germany represents a serious international danger.

2. The Federal Government is aware that the Soviet Union bases its present appraisal of the question of reunification on the fact that the Federal Republic has decided to establish its own national armed forces and to adhere to the defence system of the NATO and Western European Union. The Federal Government believes that this evaluation is based on a fallacy.

3. It cannot be assumed that the establishment by the Federal Republic of its own armed forces raises any serious apprehension on the part of the Soviet Government in regard to its own security or the security of Germany's eastern neighbours.

4. The Federal Government is very interested in a general agreement on disarmament. A disarmament agreement cannot, however, be reached on the basis that a state which has no soldiers should remain in this state while another state reduces the number of its divisions. Disarmament must proceed from a comparable level of forces.

5. It is a regrettable misunderstanding if the Soviet Government assumes that the western powers have demanded that the whole of Germany must belong to NATO and the West European Union after reunification. A future all-German government must be free to decide whether the security of Germany should be sought in alliance with the west, the east, or without any alliance at all.

6. The Federal Government regrets that there has so far been no detailed discussion on the Eden Plan of July 18th 1955 for a demilitarised zone between East and West.

7. The Federal Government supports in principle the idea of a European security system. It rejects however the idea of a European security system, as proposed by the Soviet Union, in which both German states should be represented.

8. The Federal Government believes that Germany must be reunified by free all-German elections.

* * *

The West German note was marked by several pages of abuse of the German Democratic Republic, which was described as a place in which "the most primitive human rights are trodden underfoot", and in which the population were unable to educate their children in accordance with their own ideas of humanity, religion and culture. Citizens of East Germany could not "develop their personality freely" the note stated.

DEMOCRATIC GERMANY MUST BE CONSULTED

Foreign Minister Stakes Claim

The German Democratic Republic would insist on being consulted on all international problems affecting Germany as a whole, Dr Lothar Bolz, Foreign Minister of the Republic, told the People's Chamber in a foreign policy statement on August 29th.

This applied in particular to international agreements and such international conventions as the Suez Convention of 1888, to which the former German state had been a signatory, Dr Bolz stated.

"As long as two German states exist on German territory, both German states are the successor states of the former German Reich" he said. "Pending the reunification of Germany the equal participation of both German states at all international conferences dealing with questions connected with Germany is absolutely essential. The German Democratic Republic will not recognise as binding for the German people or for a future united Germany any international settlements on questions affecting German interests arrived at without her cooperation."

Dr Bolz said that some states today were delaying recognition of the German Democratic Republic on the grounds that such recognition might be an obstacle to German unity. Such anxiety was unwarranted, since reunification was a matter for the German people themselves, and could only be accomplished by means of negotiations between the two existing German states. "Anyone who recognises the Bonn Government as the representative of all Germany supports — intentionally or unintentionally — the dangerous plans of the German militarists to start a military adventure on German soil.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic is prepared to enter into normal diplomatic, trade and consular relations with all states, without special conditions of any kind" the Foreign Minister stated.

"At the present time there are many unsolved problems in the relations of the German Democratic Republic with other states, problems which have their roots in the Second World War. The German Democratic Republic is ready to negotiate on all these problems, and declares her willingness to negotiate in a spirit of understanding with the government of any state to search for a just and adequate solution of all unsolved problems."

EAST GERMANY'S INTERNATIONAL STATUS

The German Democratic Republic today maintains normal diplomatic relations, or trade relations on a governmental level, with states whose inhabitants number far more than half the total population of the world.

In addition, Democratic Germany is a member of 86 international organisations, and an equal partner in five international conventions.

Here is a summary of the main international links maintained by the German Democratic Republic:

Diplomatic Relations

The German Democratic Republic has full diplomatic relations with the following states:

Soviet Union, Chinese People's Republic, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Albania, Mongolian People's Republic, Korean People's Democratic Republic, Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Trade Relations

The German Democratic Republic has trade relations on a governmental level with the following states:

India, Egypt, Finland, Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, Yemen, Burma.

In addition, non-governmental trade relations are maintained with nearly all countries of the world.

Cooperation with United Nations Organisations

The German Democratic Republic has applied for membership in the following United Nations organisations, and already cooperates in their work:

Economic Commission for Europe, (ECE), Geneva.

International Labour Office (ILO).

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Universal Postal Union (UPU).

International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

The German Democratic Republic cooperates in the work of the following United Nations Organisations:

Expanded Technical Assistance Programme (TAB).

United Nations Year Book for Human Rights, Secretariat of the United Nations, New York.

Commission to Prevent Discrimination in Education and for Minority Protection, Secretariat of the United Nations.

Narcotic Drug Commission, Geneva International Opium Bureau,

Department for Social Welfare of the United Nations.

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

World Health Organisation (WHO).

Membership in International Bodies

The German Democratic Republic is represented on the following international bodies, amongst others:

League of Red Cross Societies, Geneva.

International Pen Club, London.

International Organisation of Journalists, Prague.

International Railway Association (UIC), Paris, (and seven further specialised rail transport bodies).

International Olympic Committee (and 22 specialised international sports bodies).

Cooperation with International Bodies

The German Democratic Republic has applied for membership in the following international organisations, among others, and already cooperates in their work:

World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA).

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

International Bureau for the Publication of Customs Tariffs, Brussels.

International Sugar Council, London.

International Animal Disease Bureau, Paris.

Conventions

The German Democratic Republic has adhered to, and ratified, the following international conventions:

International Agreement on Rules in Case of Ship Collisions.

International Agreement on Aid and Help for Ships in Peril.

Berne Copyright Convention.

Paris Agreements on Trade Marks.

The German Democratic Republic has declared its readiness to adhere to the following conventions, but adherence has so far been prevented:

United Nations

Convention on the Political Rights of Women.

United Nations Convention on Genocide.

Ocean Cable Convention.

International Sugar Agreement.

Convention on the Publication of Customs Tariffs.

LACK OF FORMAL RELATIONS HINDERS TRADE WITH BRITAIN

The lack of formal relations between the German Democratic Republic and Britain is a great obstacle to increasing trade between the two countries, Foreign Trade Minister Heinrich Rau stated at the opening of the Leipzig Sample Fair on September 1st.

Dealing with trade relations between Democratic Germany and the capitalist countries, Herr Rau emphasised that the development of this trade depended to a large extent on the development of normal relations. "Let us take the case of Britain" he said. "Here we have simply an agreement with a group of merchants, an agreement which does not differ very much from a barter trade agreement. The absence of even the most elementary government interest on the British side means that the foreign trade bodies of the German Democratic Republic are quite unable to make annual or long-term plans for trade with Britain.

"This means that our trade organisations have no particular incentive to buy certain goods in Britain, or to supply certain goods to Britain. In Britain, and in other western countries, the fact is often overlooked that countries with a planned economy need to plan the volume of trade with the various foreign partners.

"As long as no trade agreement has been concluded, there is too great an element of uncertainty for the economic plan in relation to such countries."

The Foreign Trade Minister criticised the continuing lack of co-operation between the two German states in the economic field, despite frequent initiative on the part of the German Democratic Republic.

"An example in this field is the proposal in West Germany to make some alterations in the flow of the lower reaches of the Elbe. These changes would have unfavourable effects on agriculture in the German Democratic Republic. The West German Government has rejected negotiations on this subject between the ministries concerned. Under these circumstances, we can only recommend the West German Government to remember that the Elbe flows from the German Democratic Republic into West German territory, and not the other way round."

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

What a Scottish Visitor Noted

Readers very often ask us about freedom of speech and religion in East Germany. Here is what Mr. John Mathieson, Scottish building worker, noticed when he visited East Germany this summer:

Of course, there are people who have grouses. One of them was an elderly fellow who was cleaning out a drain in a factory. We thought we would ask him how he liked living under the new society. He looked at us, then at his shovel, and said it was all the same to him what system he had to work under. He told us that the retirement pension was not high enough and that he had to work to get his beer and baccy and other pleasures.

The factory, government, trade union, everything came in for a ruthless attack; then he wound up by saying he wasn't supposed to criticise or speak his mind. This tickled us, because he was criticising everything in front of German trade union officials and at the same time saying he was not allowed to do so.

The German trade union officials reminded the old boy that there was a works committee and a trade union committee to deal with grievances, and that it was surely better to work in a nationally owned factory than under Hitler. He agreed about Hitler but was adamant about the need for improvement. His talk was mainly non-constructive, but I notice since I got back to Scotland that the East German government has decided to increase old age pensions . . .

One Saturday morning we had the pleasure of a trip by paddle steamer along the Elbe river from Dresden to Meissen, the famous porcelain town. Seated near us was a group of elderly ladies with their Protestant parson. He was taking the ladies of his congregation on a trip. They were very friendly, inquisitive, talkative and homely people, the kind you meet on any church outing at home. I could not help thinking that except for the language these people were little different from those in Scotland . . .

In Leipzig a religiously inclined member of our delegation went to mass and had a chat with the priest afterwards about religious freedom. He told us that with the exception that some of the texts were in German instead of Latin, there was no difference in the service. Donations to the church from worshippers seemed to be extremely liberal. Later on we had a conversation with two nuns whom we met at the gates of one of the many historic old churches. It seemed to us that there was complete religious freedom for all denominations and that religious practice, among the older generation at least, was pretty general.

WEHRMACHT SOLDIERS ISOLATED

The soldiers of the new West German Wehrmacht are in danger of becoming isolated from society, since the average West German civilian does not want to have anything to do with them, the Hamburg newspaper "Die Welt" stated on September 1st. The newspaper, in an article entitled "The Isolated Soldier" gave the following examples of the way in which Wehrmacht soldiers are treated by the West German public:

"In Bremen civilians attacked six non-commissioned officiers, and injured several of them seriously. In Hamburg, three grenadiers got into an argument with civilians and were knocked down. In Heilbronn soldiers were beaten up at a local festival. In Kiel a girl refused to dance with a soldier: she did not want to be regarded as a 'Yankee girl-friend'. In Munich a beer-shop refuses to serve soldiers, since the owner says he does not want his business 'to get a bad name'. In the same city a lawyer has filed a complaint with the courts because he was disturbed by soldiers marching singing through the streets at 6.30 in the morning."

The newspaper added: "Such happenings would have been impossible in former times."

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The administrations of the West German provinces of Bremen and Rheinland-Pfalz have banned recruiting lectures for the new Wehrmacht in all schools in their provinces, West German newspapers reported on September 7th.

FOUR MILLION DISCUSS REFORMS

Less Red-tape: More Local Initiative

Well over four million citizens of the German Democratic Republic have taken part in discussions on sweeping local government reforms now being prepared, it was announced in the People's Chamber on August 30th.

Main aim of the reforms is to give increased powers to local elected bodies, to increase local initiative, and to avoid some of the difficulties which arise from too much centralisation and "over-planning".

The People's Chamber, after a lively discussion, passed in first reading a new local authorities bill, which will now be the subject of further detailed discussion in parliamentary commissions and in public meetings throughout the Republic.

Presenting the Government case for the reform, which will grant considerably wider powers to local elected bodies at all levels from the village to the county, Hermann Matern of the Socialist Unity Party stated:

"When we started to build our state of workers and peasants, we had to centralise a lot of tasks in order to get them done. This was partly due to the fact that many capable people had to be brought from the districts into the central administration. In the meantime the local parliaments, the municipal councils and so on have won much experience, and their members have greatly increased political knowledge and practical abilities. The centralisation of certain tasks, which was once a necessity, is now out of date.

"We have now reached a stage where we must begin to get rid of over-centralisation, and fully develop the rights of the local elected bodies.

"One of the worst shortcomings at present is that many political and state functionaries do not recognise clearly the role to be played by the local elected bodies in the system of workers' and peasants' government. This has sometimes meant in the past that the elected bodies have not been able to make themselves felt. The town administrations have told the parliaments what to do, instead of the other way round."

Hermann Matern pointed out that under the new local government bill all local parliaments would be responsible themselves for voting their budgets, instead of merely approving budgets prepared for them by the administration.

The new local government bill, which will come before the People's Chamber again for its second reading in the near future, defines very precisely the rights and duties of the local bodies elected in direct and secret election. The members of county, city and village parliaments will have the legal duty of reporting back to their electors at frequent intervals and having regular public consultation times. The electors can demand that the member lay down his mandate if he does not do his duties properly.

In the debate in the People's Chamber members of all parties were outspokenly critical of over-centralisation and bureaucracy in their constituencies.

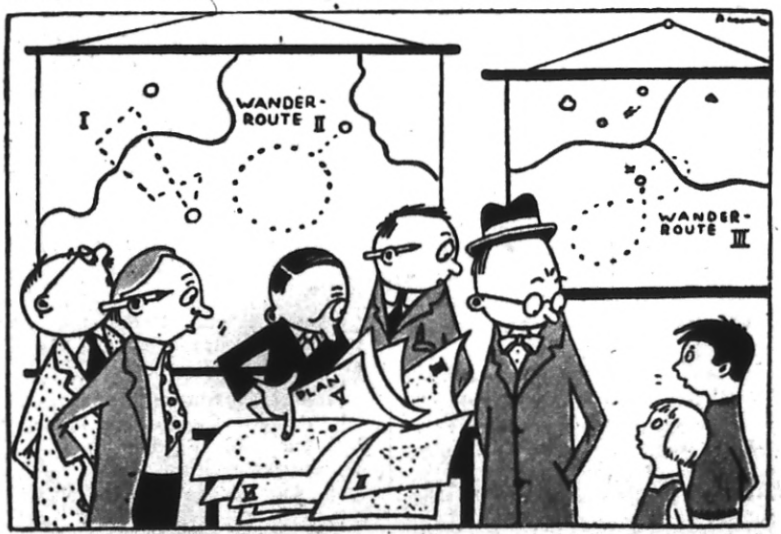
Johanna Krause, 32-year old owner of a small farm, representing the Democratic Peasant Party, criticised the enormous number of instruction sheets and forms issued by central authorities. "Almost every village mayor needs a personal lawyer to help him interpret the forms and instructions with which he is bombarded" she said. "In a village near mine, a peasant lost all his chickens through disease, and was not able to meet his egg delivery quota. The local authorities, however, were not able to reduce or cancel his quota: apparently every egg has to be dealt with personally by the State Secretariat in Berlin."

Hans Warnke, 60-year old building worker, today chairman of the Rostock City Corporation, attacked over-centralisation and bad planning in the building industry. He cited the case of a barn which was being built on an agricultural production co-operative in his district. While the barn was being built, peasants pointed out that the loft door was far too small for the passage of bales of straw. The builders shrugged their shoulders and said that they were building the barn according to a standard plan approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, and that was the way they had to build it.

Representatives of all other parties and groups represented in the People's Chamber gave similar examples of bureaucracy in local affairs, and proposed methods for overcoming such shortcomings by means of further decentralisation and the development of local initiative.

OVER-PLANNING

(In the wide public discussion on bureaucratic over-planning, a teacher criticised the fact that the Ministry of Education had drawn up a centralised plan laying down precisely which areas should be visited by the children of each district in school excursions and outings, leaving no scope for local wishes and initiative. Another teacher quoted an instruction sheet issued by the Ministry of Education on July 26th 1956, laying down exactly how many waste-paper baskets and file covers each school must have.)



(from "Neues Deutschland", Berlin)

"What, your class wants to make an outing to the mountains? But that is not planned until 1962!"

THE HOLIDAY OF THEIR LIVES

Scots Schoolchildren in Dresden

By Philip Stein, Glasgow

Twenty-six teenage West Highland schoolchildren from Oban have had the holiday of their lives — in Dresden, East Germany.

Next year the East German schoolchildren who played hosts at Dresden will spend their summer holiday at Oban.

Responsible for pulling off this unique coup in East-West friendship is the history master in Oban High School, Mr. Andrew J. Murray.

Tall, deliberate-speaking Mr. Murray, father of three bonnie young lassies, is an elder of Oban Old Parish Church. He is a man of peace — and imagination.

One Man Effort

Last year he decided he would do something in his own backyard to help break down the barriers of the last war as well as those of the cold war.

With the support of his headmaster he wrote the Mayor of Dresden asking to be put in touch with a secondary school in that dreadfully bombed city.

His letter suggested a pen-pal correspondence should be started between his pupils and those of the Dresden school. The teachers, too, would exchange experiences.

He wrote to Dresden, for in his own words, "if any city in Germany deserved an expression of friendship it was Dresden."

Only a matter of weeks before the end of the war, when the fate of the Wehrmacht was already sealed, Bomber Command launched a massive raid against the virtually undefended city.

45,000 Dead

It was set on fire from end to end. Officially, roughly 35,000 civilians died. But the casualty list only included the heads of the blitz victims found. The number killed was perhaps 10,000 more.

So the correspondence began between the Martin Anderson-Nexo Oberschule and Oban High School.

Friendships blossomed. An illustrated album of Oban compiled by Mr. Murray's pupils was sent to the Oberschule.

It said in the foreword written by Oban's ex-Provost John McNaughton, convener of Argyll Education Committee: "Friendship can only achieve true value when people can meet."

The suggestion immediately came from Dresden — come and see us. Plans were made. Parents of 26 pupils agreed their children should go. Four teachers arranged to go with them. The education committee gave £ 50 toward the cost.

In Dresden, preparations went ahead. Most of the money needed to meet the cost of the visit was raised by voluntary effort.

Every child in the Oberschule pledged itself to a contribution of ten pfennigs a week.

Special money-making events were organised. A professor of music, a noted pianist in the city, staged a concert. The entire proceeds went to the welcome-the-Scots fund.

The great day came. After their journey across Europe where incredulous West German travellers refused to believe they were engaged on such a trip, the Scots youngsters arrived at Dresden Station.

Excited Welcome

For the rest of their days they will remember the excited welcome given them by a cheering mass of pupils from the Oberschule.

Teachers and pupils alike were all boarded out with German families. In most cases the visitors stayed with their pen-pals.

Mr. Murray's pretty 17-year-old daughter Pauline was there. "We were made to feel at home straight away", she said.

"I don't think we will ever forget their friendliness — and their good manners."

Echoed her father: So much was done for us. We never had to pay for a thing. It is something we will never forget.

"Absolutely no attempt was made to supervise our movements. We went around as we pleased."

Among the contrasting places they visited were the Pioneer Palace in Dresden and Buchenwald — the concentration camp where millions were done to death by the Nazis.

The palace had formerly belonged to some German dukeling. Now it has been turned into a vast palace of pleasure for Dresden's children.

Of Buchenwald, Mr. Murray said: "It is a very good thing the people in Eastern Germany are remembering the crimes committed during the Nazi regime.

"In fact I was quite surprised at the grown-ups' acceptance of responsibility for the crimes of the Nazis.

"Among the ordinary people I spoke to it was admitted most Germans supported Hitler so long as he got away with it."

Children Stay Children

Of the children of Dresden, Mr. Murray said: "A tremendous amount of effort is put in by the authorities and teachers for the children.

"Although quite remarkably self-possessed, the children seem to remain children rather longer than they do here.

"They give place to their elders. And I saw no signs of unpleasant aggressiveness among them."

He added that throughout his stay in Eastern Germany he saw only one child with a toy gun — a water pistol. Imitation firearms are forbidden.

Was there any evidence of pressure on the churches? I asked Mr. Murray.

"None at all," he replied. "As a matter of fact, we all went to church with our hosts. The one Catholic boy with us was taken to a Catholic church.

"Out of 30 in the class who were our hosts, only two were non-churchgoers.

"I noted, too, that the Press gave a very big write-up to the Minister of Dresden Reformed Church, Dr. De Ahaas, who died while we were in Dresden."

Rubble Clearing

An added gesture of friendship undertaken by the Scots visitors was a two-hour stint clearing away bomb rubble. They also laid a wreath on the memorial to Dresden's civilian dead.

Now preparations are being made in Oban for a real Highland welcome to be given to the Dresden pupils when they make their return visit next summer.

Parents are especially looking forward to repaying the kindness and hospitality shown their children in Dresden.

Something like £400—£500 will have to be raised to cover the costs. Mr. Murray is quite confident it can be done.

He summed up his feelings on the East-West friendship his work has fostered.

"One of the curses of this world is putting tags and labels on to peoples and nations.

"Some people put a label on Eastern Germany and think everything is fixed.

"Then you get behind the label and you find a friendly people living a busy, purposeful life.

"Our experience has shown that young people brought up in entirely different parts of the world are able to make friends without any difficulty at all.

"That's something everyone can learn to advantage."

("Daily Worker", London August 27th 1956)

"WHAT CAN WE LEARN?"

W. German Journalist Has a Look at Democratic Germany

(A leading West German journalist, Paul Sethe, recently made a long trip through the German Democratic Republic. He strongly criticised many things which he saw there: but he tried to give an objective picture. In the influential Hamburg newspaper „Die Welt" on September 3rd he described how some of the people whom he met in Democratic Germany felt about the reunification of Germany: we present on this page some extracts from his article.)

Not every citizen of the German Democratic Republic who rejects Herr Ulbricht (First Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party, ed.) and who longs for freedom is therefore entranced by everything which happens in the (West German) Federal Republic. Not everybody who wants to live together with us once again is therefore willing to give up everything which exists on his side.

I know that it is a fact that there are many people there who regard certain parts of their special social development as something absolutely natural. We should not imagine that they would break out in loud cheers if those conditions were now replaced by others which they do not understand. We have been divided from each other now for nearly twelve years. Twelve years are a long time. History does not mark time: it creates new forms: and they cannot always be abolished again. Lots of people curse Hitler, but they drive their cars on his Autobahn trunk roads.

I was just talking to the engineer of a socialised factory . . . I could assume that he was an opponent of socialism. But when I asked him whether, in a reunited Germany, he wanted his factory to be handed over to a private capitalist, he was deeply shocked. Naturally not, he said. Otherwise his factory, which was running at a loss, would soon be closed. 'It will last fifty years until we have reunification, and it will only come about when both governments make concessions' he said. 'I imagine that then in the West all factories with over 10,000 workers will be socialised, and our government will re-privatise the factories with less than 10,000 workers. I can't see any other way.'

This man, member of no party, middle class in his ideas and his way of living, may be taken as typical of many others who think like he does.

When we speak of what our compatriots in the East want, then we must always recall how powerful familiarity is, even among those who reject the government.

This can be said with still greater force about the peasants who now occupy the divided Junker estates. There are 210,000 new smallholders on the land in the Republic. Together with their wives and children they represent one million people. Can anyone seriously imagine that they want the old conditions to be reintroduced. Of course, one sometimes meets in the West a refugee or a visitor from the East who says that he would prefer to be an agricultural labourer 'for the Herr Baron' once again. In Mecklenburg I did not meet one such person. Do not tell me I was only taken to show places, and that I could only speak with well-rehearsed partners. I was given every possible help for my trip, but I could speak with whom I liked, and alone if I wanted to. I could go into any house I wanted, and for several hours each day I was completely without any guide. The new settlers grumble too: they are angry about various regulations: but that should not be taken as a wish to have the old conditions restored.

They grumble perhaps that their farms are too small. Many of them got at the beginning only five hectares. (about 12 acres), and this is too little on land like that in Mecklenburg. Some had too little capital. Some find that the delivery quota for their products is too high. Some think that they do not get enough support from the machine and tractor hire stations. There are plenty of complaints . . . But does anyone really think that the son of the former estate gardner, or the refugee peasant from Bessarabia would be pleased if the 'squire' returned, and took his land away from him? One can of course deliver a legal lecture to the peasants pointing out that the land reform in 1945 was illegal, and that legal conditions should be restored. But remember that the peasant has been working his own farm for twelve years now, having his trouble and his pleasure with his rye and his potato harvest, with his horses and his cattle. For him the legal fact is that it belongs to him . . .

Hundreds of thousand of people in the Republic are the heirs of the big landowners; hundreds of thousands are enjoying the fruits of a development which has abolished the educational monopoly of the wealthy. From every hundred students, ninety-five can attend the university because the state keeps them while they study. It has been calculated that in West Germany one third of the students have to work full time to keep themselves, and that another third are forced to find at least holiday work. Nobody knows how many talented children are absolutely unable to study because their parents have not got enough money . . . The twentieth century will give the decision against those who still do not grasp that education must no longer be dependent upon money.

I asked my driver how he liked conditions. "Not so bad" he said. The thing which made him happiest was that he could send his daughter to secondary school. She not only got all her books and other material free, but also a grant of 25 marks monthly. Soon, when she want on to university, it would be more. A dock worker had two sons at university, and both of them, with the addition of premiums for specially good study, were getting 250 marks a month. If anyone wants to speak about reunification to such people, and to many others in a similar situation, then he must be in a position to say immediately: 'You will retain this. This will not be taken away from you.' Can we truly say this? If not, then it is high time that we could.

Communism has done what we should have done a long time ago: broken the educational monopoly of the well-to-do . . .

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

West German local authorities now have to pay a big fine if they do not employ enough nazis. Put like that, it sounds rather unbelievable, so I had better go into detail.

The whole story starts with the West German Basic Law or Constitution, which was promulgated in May 1949 after being approved by the British, American and French military governments. Article 131 of this constitution states: "The rights of persons, including refugees and expellees, who were employed up to May 8th 1945 in the public service ... and who have not yet been reinstated in posts in accordance with their previous rank ... will be defined by Federal Law".

It all looks harmless enough: the village postman who was uprooted in the confusion at the end of the war should be re-employed in the postal service in his previous grade, or if he is too old he should get the pension to which he is entitled.

In due course, the Federal Law defining what action was to be taken under Article 131 of the Constitution was passed by the West German Parliament, and undoubtedly a few village postmen and other people in the same category were helped. But this was not the main effect of the law. Who were the people who had been employed in the German public service up to May 1945, the date of the end of the war, and not yet reinstated in equivalent posts by 1949, when the Constitution came into force?

The vast majority of such people were of course active nazis, ranging all the way from lord mayors and police presidents down to small officials, who had been thrown out of office by the denazification measures immediately after the end of the war.

The effect of the new law was to force all government authorities and local authorities, whether they liked it or not, to re-employ these old nazis. If for some reason they could not be re-employed, then the law allowed them to claim full pensions, compensation, and so on. The law in fact created a new class of persons, always referred to in West Germany today as "131-ers" after the number of the Article of the Constitution.

But now, after this rather long-winded but necessary explanation, let me get back to the first paragraph of this story, which some readers may have found it hard to believe. The West Berlin newspaper "Tagesspiegel" reported on September 4th:

"The (West) Berlin administration has not fulfilled its quota for providing posts for persons falling under the 131-er Law. According to this law the Senate is obliged to fill 20 percent of posts with 131-ers, and reserve 20 percent of the total wage bill for them. However, only 18 percent of the posts have been filled with 131-ers, and only 19 percent of the wage bill has been devoted to paying them. Because of this the Senate must pay the sum of 600,000 marks (over 50,000 sterling) as equalisation payment to the Federal authorities ... It is noticeable that the district councils with Social Democratic majorities have lagged behind in employing 131-ers more than district councils with bourgeois majorities."

And to this report I have little to add. It may be noted however that some of the 131-ers who have been re-employed are outstanding nazis who are now in very sensitive positions in the West Berlin administration. They include such men as Hans Jueterbog, formerly personal body-guard to nazi police chief Heinrich Himmler, who is at present a department head in the political police and is being promoted to chief of the homicide squad from the beginning of October. District homicide squads in four West Berlin districts are also headed by former officers of Hitler's black-uniformed SS.

If you can stand a little more of this depressing information about re-nazification in West Germany, read on.

* * *

A sinister little man with his face criss-crossed with the duelling scars so prized by German reactionaries will soon be hanging around the headquarters of the United Nations in New York. He is Georg von Broich-Oppert, who has just been named as the West German liaison officer with the United Nations with the rank of ambassador.

I only once had the doubtful pleasure of meeting Herr von Broich-Oppert. It was in 1949, when he was personal assistant to the Lord Mayor of West Berlin. I was at that time West Berlin correspondent for the British Reuter Newsagency. Hearing that I had recently come from Vienna, Herr von Broich-Oppert began to talk of the wonderful times he had had in Vienna. "Those were the happiest days of my life" he said. He then explained that he had been a member of the nazi embassy staff in Vienna from 1933 to 1938. During those years, as any student of European history knows, the German Embassy in Vienna was exclusively staffed with active nazis engaged in undermining Austrian independence and preparing for the nazi conquest of Austria.

Herr von Broich-Oppert does not like to talk these days about the part which he played in these nazi plots; but documentary evidence exists showing that he played a very active part.

On July 8th 1933, the leadership of the illegal nazi party in Austria sent the following letter to its contact man in Germany:

"For international political reasons we request that in future you address the mail to the German Embassy, 3 Metternichgasse, Vienna, for Herr Embassy Secretary Georg von Broich-Oppert. The letters will be sent on to us from there, since we are in regular contact with the Embassy."

A copy of this interesting letter fell into the hands of the anti-nazi underground and was smuggled out to France, where it was printed in April 1934 in the book on the Reichstag Fire Trial "Dimitroff Contra Goering" published by Editions du Carrefour.

Later in the nazi period, Herr von Broich-Oppert left the nazi diplomatic service, and worked for the IG Farben Chemical Trust, the people who made the gas for the extermination camps, in Budapest. Posts with the IG Farben were often used as a cover for secret service work during the nazi regime.

After the war Herr von Broich-Oppert was rapidly promoted from municipal service back into the diplomatic service, and was sent in 1951 as West German Ambassador to Norway. Now he has been promoted again to his new post in New York.

* * *

More than half the West German population think that National Socialism was a good idea, according to the public opinion poll results published in the "Year Book of Public Opinion" recently issued by the West German Allensbacher Public Opinion Institute.

This institute, which is heavily financed by the West German authorities, recently asked a representative sample of the population "Do you think that National Socialism was a good idea, but badly carried out?" Fifty-seven percent replied with "yes", twenty-eight percent with "no", and fifteen percent were undecided.

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